



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Detectives Make Arrest in 7-11 Robbery and Post Office Burglary

Date: December 8, 2016

On 11-27-16 just after 11 p.m., the clerk at the 7-11 store located at 6016 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill notified the Hernando County Sheriff's Office that she had just been robbed. She told deputies a white male had been in the store for an extended time and then proceeded to take cash from the register. The male then pushed the clerk and fled from the store. The clerk provided deputies with a detailed description of the suspect, including tattoos on his neck.

Deputies obtained video surveillance from the store which depicted the male suspect, dressed in a dark hoodie, long dark shorts, black shoes, and a black ball cap. The suspect had visible tattoos on his neck and left leg.

Once the still photo (taken from video surveillance) was posted on the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, a tip was received regarding the possible identity of the suspect. The tipster advised that Jonathan Bizuk, who resides at 1252 Garrett Avenue in Spring Hill, resembled the individual in the surveillance photo.

Detectives began following up the lead, which included speaking with Bizuk's Probation Officer. After viewing the surveillance photos, the Probation Officer conformed that Bizuk was in fact the individual depicted in the photos. Detectives then prepared a photo pack to show to the 7-11 clerk. The clerk also selected Bizuk as the suspect that robbed her. Detectives obtained a warrant for the arrest of Jonathan Bizuk.

It should be noted that Bizuk was also a "person of interest" in the Commercial Burglary that occurred at the U.S. Post Office, located at 7341 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill on 12-06-16. Detectives from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office worked closely with the United States Postal Inspector on this case.

On 12-07-16 at approximately 7:15 p.m., Major Case Detectives, along with Selective Enforcement Units and two K-9 teams, located Bizuk at his address on Garrett Avenue. When detectives attempted to make contact with Bizuk, he fled.

Unbeknownst to Bizuk, Deputy Jeff Andrews and K-9 Valor were prepared in case Bizuk fled. When Bizuk ignored all commands to surrender, Deputy Andrews deployed K-9 Valor who promptly took Bizuk into custody.

Bizuk was treated on scene for the dog bites by Hernando County Fire Rescue and then transported to Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point for additional treatment.

Post Miranda, Bizuk admitted to the Robbery of the 7-11 as well as the Commercial Burglary at the U.S. Post Office and others. He told detectives he committed the burglaries to support his drug problem. Bizuk was served with the arrest warrant, and he was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center.

Detectives then obtained a search warrant for the 1252 Garrett Avenue address in order to locate evidence from the robbery and burglary. The search revealed clothing items believed to be worn during the robbery/burglary, gift cards taken from the burglary, and approximately two pounds of marijuana in Bizuk's bedroom, later determined to belong to Joshua Almeida.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "This case is a perfect example of our how our social media presence allows us to solve open cases and prevent future ones. We appreciate every person who takes the time to review our posts and steps forward with tips. Even with the assistance of our citizens, however, it can still take a lot of resources to find and apprehend criminals. This operation alone, for example, took 50% of our small 4-person Canine Unit. This case illustrates why the additional K-9 deputy/handler was requested in this year's budget. Even if funds were approved today, it will take several months to fill and train the position."

Johnathan Michael Bizuk W/M DOB/12-13-1987 remains in the Hernando County Detention Center, charged as follows:

- Burglary Conveyance
- Burglary Structure
- Robbery
 - Bond - \$20,000.

Joshua George Almeida W/M DOB/09-10-1993, also a resident in the home, was charged as follows:

- Possession of Marijuana (over 20 grams)
- Possession of Paraphernalia
 - \$3,000.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the

ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.